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MINOR NOTICES

The Menace of Japan (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1917, pp. 372) by Frederick McCormick, American newspaper correspondent in Peking, purports to be an intensive study of the politics of the Far East during the past decade. Its thesis is easily stated: Japan is a menace to China's sovereignty, to the economic interests of the European powers and the United States in Chinese territory, and to the peaceful future of all the powers bordering on the Pacific, because her ambition for expansion is unlimited and her conduct in pursuing her self-appointed destiny is not hampered by any recognition of the principle of nationality. From the statement of the case as spread upon the pages of his book the author concludes that war between the United States and Japan is certain to come unless the United States will make such a demonstration of force as to compel Japan to settle the problem of the Pacific in the "light of understanding and mutual respect."

The American reader will find himself drawn to the author because of his hearty interest in preserving and extending American interests in the Far East, perhaps even more so because of his generous sympathy with China in her struggles against a "predatory" world. The European reader, whether English, French, or Russian, will doubtless be offended by the way in which his country is referred to either as the unwitting tool of Japan, the leader of the "predatory pack," or as its guilty accomplice. All readers alike, who have the enterprise to continue to the end (for it takes no little patience to read a book which is written so faultily as this one), will find their reward in a disquieting impression that Japan is worth watching for her felonious intent toward China and the United States even though they are not persuaded of her power to accomplish her piratical aims.

Distinguishing between fact and fiction in books upon the politics of the Far East is no easy task, even when the author cites his sources of information; in this book it becomes impossible, except to the expert student; for Mr. McCormick informs us in his preface that "many things contained herein . . . cannot be publicly ascribed to their sources . . . many are simply extracts from my own journals and private records." The author's rabid anti-Japanese bias casts suspicion, if not upon his facts, at least upon the soundness of his judgment. As the reader passes from one chapter to another he becomes convinced that he is in the presence of a propagandist, not a sober historical writer.

The reviewer wonders whether Mr. McCormick is entirely satisfied with the immense preparations now being made in this country forcibly to make the world a fit place for democracy to live in and grow. Does he suppose that the President's term "democracy" includes China as well as Belgium and France? Does he attribute the Terauchi cabinet's remarkable change of policy toward China to the growth of America's military and naval forces? Would he admit that the menace of Japan was being removed by events which have occurred in the United States since April 6?

The Albert Shaw Lectures recently delivered at Johns Hopkins University by Prof. Payson J. Treat of Stanford University will be published by the Johns Hopkins University Press under the title, *The Early Diplomatic Relations between the United States and Japan, 1853-1865*.

Volume II of a series of volumes on *The Great War*, by Prof. George H. Allen of the University of Pennsylvania, Captain Henry C. Whitehead, U.S.A., and Admiral F. E. Chadwick, U.S.N. (George Barrie's Sons, 494 pp.), deals with The Mobilization of the Moral and Physical Forces. This is a rather bulky volume, with maps and numerous illustrations, evidently intended for the general reader rather than the serious student.

Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, United States senator from Massachusetts, has published under the title *War Addresses* (Houghton, Mifflin Company pp. 303) a selection from his speeches during the last two years. Some of these addresses are of great interest and value to students of public affairs, as for example the speech on "Armed Merchantmen," delivered in the senate on February 18, 1916. All of them deal with topics of present day interest and all are of sufficient merit to warrant their preservation for readers of a future generation.

Many matters of distinctly current interest are discussed in Lucien Howe's *Universal Military Education* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 138 pp.). There are summary descriptions of the Swiss and Australian systems, but the greater part of the volume is devoted to a careful consideration of the merits and the disadvantages of universal military education in the United States. The author puts his data in nutshell and presents his opinions in no uncertain terms. Whether one agrees with his opinions or not there is no gainsaying the fact that Mr. Howe has expressed them with brevity, clearness and vigor.

Patriots in the Making is the title of a volume by Dr. Jonathan French Scott of the University of Michigan (D. Appleton and Company, 263 pp.), in which the writer discusses the forces in the educational systems of continental countries so far as they affect the psychology of defense. There is an excellent general chapter on "Military Training in Europe," and in the appendix are some interesting data relating to the military system of the Swiss republic. The author pleads for a discrimination in the United States between the sort of education which makes for proper patriotism and that which leads only to a narrow nationalism. The book is written in a terse and readable style.

The commission which was appointed some months ago to compile information and data for the use of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention has printed a series of bulletins dealing with some of the more important matters that are likely to come before the delegates. Among those already issued are bulletins relating to *The Procedure of Constitutional Conventions*, *State Budget Systems*, *The Initiative and Referendum*, *Municipal Home Rule*, *The Pardoning Power*, *The Governor's Council*, *Biennial Sessions*, *Old Age Pensions*, and *County Government*. Other bulletins will be ready shortly. The office of the commission is at the State House, Boston.

The thirty-seventh general assembly of Iowa at its recent session requested Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh, professor of political science at the state university of Iowa, to compile an "Iowa Manual of Legislative Procedure." In accordance with this request, a manual of two hundred and twenty-three pages, including the standing rules of the general assembly and a comprehensive index, was compiled and published for the use of the members of the two houses. One hundred and thirty-one pages of the volume are devoted to a discussion of legislative procedure and practice in Iowa. This constitutes one of the few attempts that have been made in the United States to codify the procedure and practice of a state legislature.

An important contribution to the comparative study of municipal government is *El Regimen Municipal de la Ciudad Moderna*, by Prof. Adolfo Posada of the University of Madrid. This includes an analysis of political, economic and sociological factors, with chapters on municipal autonomy and democracy, and municipal government in Prussia, England, France and the United States—the latter dealing with

the newer forms of commission and manager government, as well as with the older types. Following the main part of the book is a brief summary of the machinery of local government in Spain, France, England, Prussia and the United States, with select lists of bibliographical references.

Municipal Ownership, by Carl D. Thompson (B. W. Huebsch, 114 pp.), is avowedly a plea for the municipalization of public utilities in this country. The writer's method is to jumble together a medley of facts and figures which seem to favor his side of the argument, wholly neglecting all that may be said on the other. Some of the statistics are too antiquated to be of any value whatever, as for example those which have been so freely drawn from Professor Frank Parsons' "City for the People," a book published more than sixteen years ago. Errors of statement are not infrequent, moreover, and the style of writing leaves much to be desired.

The two latest volumes in the National Municipal League Series are *Municipal Functions*, by Prof. Herman G. James of the University of Texas, and *Town Planning for Small Communities*, by Charles S. Bird, Jr., of East Walpole, Mass. The former represents an attempt to cover "the whole range of major activities in cities" and thus to supply a "lack in the textbook field." The latter contains some general discussions but is in the main devoted to an exposition of what has been planned and accomplished in the author's own community, largely, it may be added, as the outcome of his own vigorous leadership.

A small book on *The Building of Cities*, by Harlean James (The Macmillan Co.), gives a series of conversations intended to interest children in the problems of city planning.

The Taxation of Land Value by Yetta Scheftel (Houghton, Mifflin Company, 488 pp.) is the newest and in many respects the best study of what is commonly known as the single tax. The earlier chapters deal with the systems of land taxation in the Australian states, the tax on value increment in Germany, the English land-value duties and the municipal tax systems of the western Canadian provinces. Then follow careful discussions of the tax upon land values as a source of revenue and as an instrument of social reform respectively, with a concluding chapter on the expediency of laying such taxes in this country. An excellent bibliography is appended.

A new edition of Hugh Bancroft's *Inheritance Taxes for Investors* (revised to January 1, 1917) has come from the press (Houghton, Mifflin Company, 133 pp.). While originally written for investors, the book has proved useful to attorneys and to students of our multiform tax laws.

Several lectures delivered by Prof. William Cunningham of Cambridge in the London School of Economics two years ago are now printed as *The Progress of Capitalism in England* (Cambridge: The University Press, 144 pp.). Much material of great interest to students of economic history is presented in brief compass, particularly in the second part of the book which deals with "The Progress of Capitalism in Mediaeval Cities." A concluding chapter is devoted to pointing out the "Lessons from Experience." A short bibliography of the subject is added.

The Journal of the National Institute of Social Sciences for 1917 contains papers and addresses upon a wide range of subjects from "The Policeman of Today," by Commissioner Arthur H. Woods of New York City, to "The New Geology," by F. Bascom. Students of municipal affairs will be interested in the group of three papers on aspects of the government of New York City which appears on pages 166 to 183.

Henry F. Wolff's *Coöperative Credit for the United States* (Sturgis and Walton, 349 pp.) follows the same general lines as the author's earlier works on such allied subjects as *Coöperative Credit Banks* and *Coöperation in Agriculture*. These earlier books were, however, primarily written for British readers, while the present volume aims to impress upon the reading public of America the great value of coöperative credit both as a productive factor in the national life and as a creator of diffused individual wealth. The author does not waste his pages in any discussion of principles or theories; he sets out to show just how the agencies of coöperative credit are organized and managed. The book will be of great value to those who want to learn the practical workings of the system abroad and the adaptability of these plans to American conditions.